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Vermeil Medals at CHICAGOPEX 2003 and NAPEX 2004



Somali Coast cover of 23 December 1941 to French Morocco, showing (lower left) the special marking for blockade-running airmail during the British blockade (see article beginning on page 51).

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FRENCH SOMALI COAST CENSORED MAIL (1936-1945)

Alan J. Morvay (FCPS #3157)

Some historians consider that the Second World War actually started nearly five years earlier than generally considered, with a December 5, 1934 clash between Ethiopian and Italian soldiers at Wal Wal, a desert watering hole in southern Ethiopia. After much haranguing, in and minimal action by, the League of Nations, Italy finally crossed into Ethiopian territory on October 2 (or 3), 1935, bound for conquest of that country. Little time was wasted in preparing and issuing Italian Ethiopian stamps, and communications and commerce continued with the outside world (Figure 1), as that world ignored the significance of the war and occupation of a sovereign nation.

Just prior to the Italian entry into Addis Ababa, the capital, on May 5, 1936, mail received in Djibouti, French Somali Coast, for transmission to the outside world, began to be censored. The first indications of censorship were a manila-colored sealing tape, a blue

handwritten "censure militaire," and manuscript censor's initials in blue on the back (Figure 2).

In his book, *French Somali Coast: The Postal History 1939-1945*, A.R. Torrance discusses what he considers to be six distinct phases of censorship during the World War II period. The purpose of my article is to illustrate with representative, contemporaneous covers each of these censorship phases. The emphasis now is no longer on Italian-controlled (and eventually, Italian-lost) Ethiopia, but on censorship of the mail from the French Somali Coast, or Côte Française des Somalis (henceforth CFS).

Phase One: September 1939 to mid-June 1940. "The mail routes and censorship until Italy entered the war on 10th June 1940. Italy is neutral; France and the U.K. are allied, but both are at war with



Figure 1. 12 December 1936 Dire-Daoua, Italian Ethiopia, registered to CFS and forwarded to Italy; 14 December Djibouti transit; uncensored and no need for such.



Figure 3. 25 September 1939, CFS to France, censored at Djibouti.



Figure 2. 23 April 1936 Addis-Abeba registered to CFS, with three indications of French censorship.



Figure 4. 10 February 1939 CFS registered airmail to Greece; French and Greek censorship; 14 March Athens arrival backstamp.

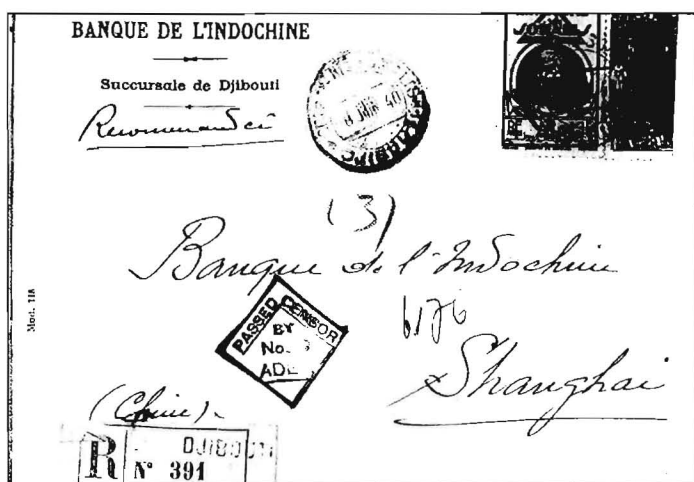


Figure 5. 8 June 1940 registered to China; 18 June Aden, 15 July Colombo and 27 August Shanghai backstamps; censored apparently only at Aden.

Germany.”¹ (Figures 3-5). Note the French *contrôle* handstamp on Figure 3, French and Greek censorship on Figure 4, and British (Aden) censorship on Figure 5.

Phase Two: 10th June to 25th June 1940. “The German invasion of France caused wide-spread disruption of many mail services between France and its colonies. For the CFS, with the mail routed through Marseille in the south of France, the effect was minor until Italy declared war on 10th June. Very little is positively known about what actually happened to CFS mail during the next short and chaotic period, and cover evidence is scarce. Many postal connections were cut and mail was often returned to sender. With Italy now at war with Britain and France, it was impossible for Italian mail-planes to land in Cairo and Khartoum, or to fly into the CFS. The civil air connection to the CFS was cut (although Italian airlines still flew into Addis Ababa, avoiding British territory en route).”²



Figure 6. 22 June 1940 registered to China; 3 July Aden and once again 15 July Colombo and 27 August Shanghai backstamp [same post-Aden ship as Figure 5 cover]; censored at both Aden and Colombo.

Postally used covers from Phase Two are especially uncommon and are the scarcest from all of the six phases because this was the shortest and the most chaotically disorganized of all, and because of its very brief two-weeks duration. Figure 6 shows British (Aden, Colombo) censorship, but apparently no French censorship.

Phase Three: 25th June 1940 to March 1941. “On 25th June 1940 Italy and France signed an armistice, following closely after the German-French armistice. The armistice terms split North and West France off as an occupied territory from non-occupied South France. This left Southern France under the control of the Third Republic Government, and later under the Vichy Government of Marshal Petain. The CFS declared for the Petain Government and it became possible for French mail from Djibouti to be flown by the Italians - now allies - via Rome to Vichy France (but not Northern ‘Occupied’ France). The mail was taken by rail from Djibouti to Addis Ababa and was then flown out by Italian planes via Benghazi (or later via Tripoli in Libya) to Rome, then forwarded from Rome to Marseille by a French plane.”³



Figure 7. 28 August 1940 to French Morocco; CFS and Italian censorship; 17 September Casablanca arrival backstamp.



Figure 8. 12 February 1941 airmailed to Fr. Morocco; CFS and Italian censorship; lettering on Italian sealing band not as fancy as on Figure 7 cover; 19 March Marrakesh arrival backstamp.

Phase Three is the second most uncommon of the six phases. Figures 7 and 8 show different FCS and Italian censorship markings and sealing bands.

Phase Four: Spring 1941 to November 1942. "Even before the collapse of the Italian service, the French had begun in November 1940 to set up an air-mail connection with Metropolitan France via Tunis. The first French 'blockade-runner' flight was made by Codos in the 'Ville de St Pierre' attempting to reach Madagascar from France. The plane left Marignane airport on 7 November 1940, landing at Tunis and then at Djibouti. The plane left Djibouti on 13 November for Diego-Suarez, arriving there on 14 November. The plane departed on the return flight on 21 November, landing at Djibouti on 22 November, leaving on 23rd and arriving at Marignane on 26 November 1940. The second 'blockade runner' flight, also by Codos in the same machine, left Marignane on 3 February 1941 shortly before the Italian mail service collapsed. Codos flew the 'Ville de St Pierre' from Marseille to Bizerta [sic], Beyrouth and Djibouti. The plane was damaged but arrived at Djibouti on 12 February. The intended destination was Madagascar, but the damage to the plane forced a return to France. The plane finally left Djibouti on 27 February for Bizerta [sic]. The mail was put into the French postal system on 3 March 1941."⁴

Blockade runner covers, bearing the long rectangular marking "SERVICES AÉRIENS SPÉCIAUX / PENDANT LE BLOCUS DE DJIBOUTI" (Figure 11 is a particularly fine example) are popular and are the most sought after of the censorship period. Some collectors try to identify and collect covers from each of the 20 blockade-running flights. Some examples are shown in Figure 9-12).



Figure 9. 15 September 1941 to Unoccupied France; faint CFS contrôle marking; flown by Codos in an Amiot 370 on 20 September, arriving Marseille the 21st.



Figure 10. 8 November 1941 to Fr. Morocco; CFS contrôle marking and "blockade-running" cachet; 11 December Marseille backstamp; no Moroccan backstamp; flown by Durmon in an Amiot 356 on 9 November, arriving Marseille the 10th.



Figure 11. 23 December 1941 to Fr. Morocco; no evident censorship; 26 December Marseille backstamp; flown by Codos in an Amiot 356 24-25 December to Marseille.



Figure 12. 10 February 1942 to Unoccupied France; French military cachet of unit's mail clerk and CFS contrôle; 23 February Marseille backstamp; flown by Casanova in an Amiot 370 on 20 February, arriving Marseille the 22nd.

(Continued in October 2006 Issue)

CODE POSTAL (ON MILITARY MAIL)

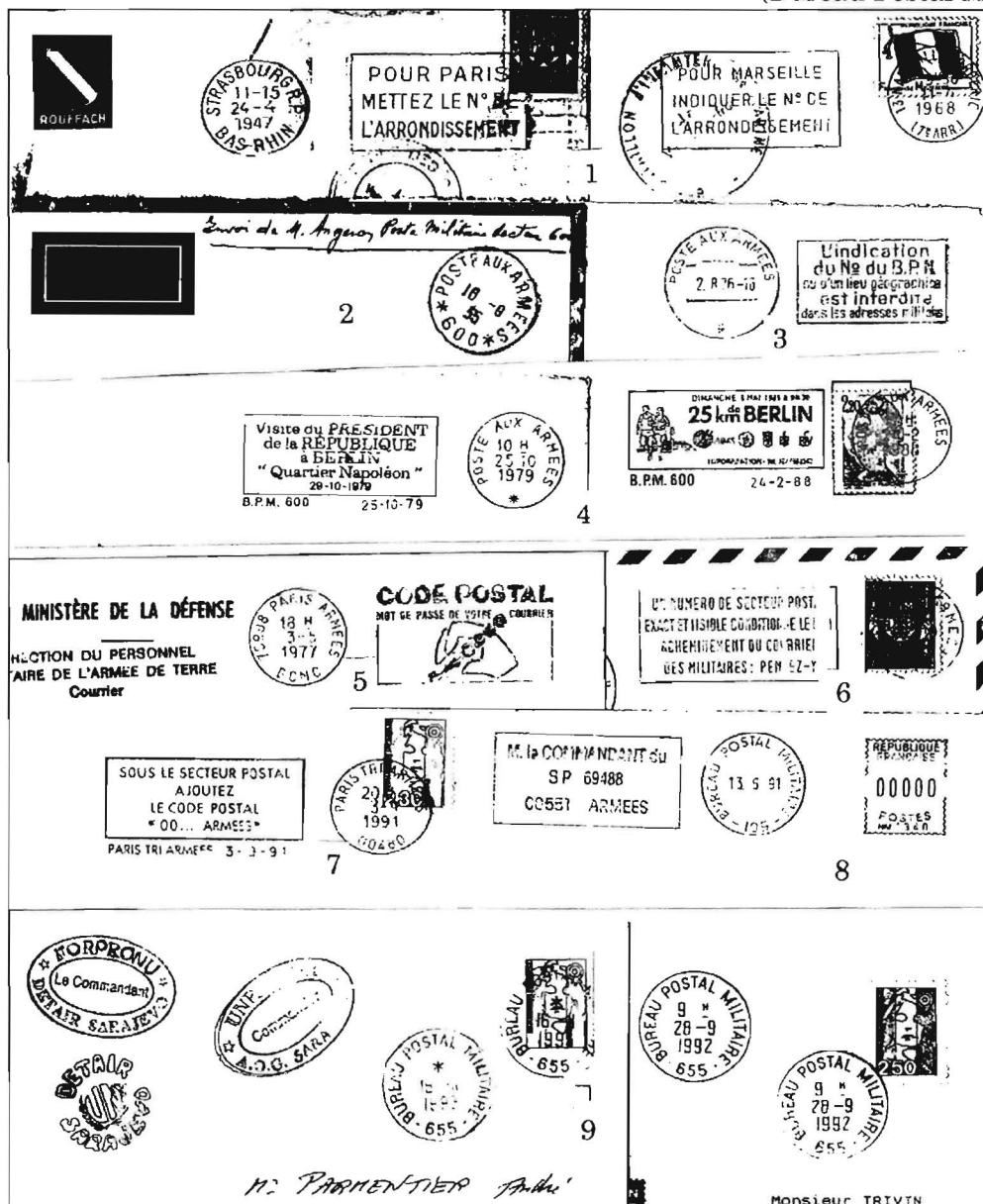
Robert T. Kinsley (FCPS #2180)



The adjoining card which says "above all, do not forget our postal code," and the accompanying medley of French military cover corners, provide the opportunity to remind readers that an accurate snail-mail code [I think our Mr. Zip was buried a long time ago] is important for the prompt delivery of our society's *Philatelist*. The postal code in France began in the two largest cities of Paris and Marseille with the simple identification of the appropriate section of the city, the *arrondissement* (Figure 1, showing slogan machine cancels on military franchise stamps Scott #M10 and M12).

Before the Second World War military mail identified its location postal code (Figure 2) but during the war and into the 1970s the use of such B.P.M. (Bureau Postal Militaire) codes was *interdite* (forbidden, Figure 3). This changed in

the late 70s when the B.P.M. was once again included in postmarks (Figure 4). Use of the civilian location postal code, called the "*mot de passé* (password) for your mail" (Figure 5) was regularly encouraged, as was also the use of the military postal code. A pictorial postmark of the 1980s (Figure 6) says "a correct and legible postal sector number moves military mail, think about it." Some time later another pictorial postmark for the Paris military mail-sorting (*tri*) facility (Figure 7) says "under the postal sector add the postal code," and virtually all military mail, even meter strips, now identifies the location postal code (Figure 8). Bureau 655 in Figure 9 was the location of the French unit in Sarajevo.



CHARGEMENT D'OFFICE

Some notes on the origins and use of this instructional mark from the 18th Century to 1918.

Peter R.A. Kelly (FCPS #3064)

During the 18th Century when letters were found to contain letters or valuables, the postmaster had to take action to prevent any blame attaching to the post authorities by reason of their having failed to register such items, and this included recording them on the advice notes that accompanied mail to the receiving office. This is clearly stated in **L'Instruction pour les controleurs des Postes** of 1757 and confirmed by article VI of **l'instruction générale** of 1792 which also describes registration and chargement as being synonymous at that time, merely being the written recording in the documents and registers, to ensure the proper treatment of such items by other postmasters. It was a purely internal system, not subject to any extra charges.

The **instruction générale** of 1808 is also of interest. Article 60 deals with letters addressed to the Emperor and found posted in boxes. These had to be treated as **recommandées d'office** in every case by the receiving office. Articles 65, 172-176 define letters **recommandées d'office** as those whose contents warrant their being sent **chargées**. Although being treated as **chargé** they do not have the benefits of **chargement** accruing to either the sender or the recipient.

In 1829 the introduction of a new category of letter **recommandée** resulted in a change of name to **chargement d'office**.

1. **Instruction Générale sur le Service des Postes. Volume I. Mai 1832. Article 298** "Chargement d'Office" is carried out by postmasters under their proper authority, in the following circumstances:-

1. When the letter is addressed to the King.
2. When a letter found in a letterbox or in transit appears to contain gold or silver coins or objects whose loss could engage the responsibility of postal agents (see **Article 236** below).
3. When the formality of registration has been laid down by the Administration with regard to letters or packets relating to the postal services.

Article 299. Letters considered as "*chargées d'Office*" when liable to be taxed are now subject to a penalty of double taxation. The amount of the tax on these letters is to be included on the advice sheet with the other taxed letters.

Article 300. Postmasters are to write on top of each letter and packet indicated in Article 299 above

the address the words "*Chargé d'Office*" and, in addition, to stamp each letter or packet "*Chargé*" together with the ordinary handstamp of the office.

Article 302. The loss of a "*Chargement d'Office*" item will not give rise to any compensation.

The definition given in Article 236 does not add to what is mentioned above. **Article 236.** If a postmaster finds in his letter box letters enclosing gold or silver coins or objects whose loss may engage the liability of the postal agents, he must register it. Christopher Hitchen has produced a local Paris letter of 1847 sent under the franchise "Service du Roi / Maison du Roi / 2" and the special office handstamp "Bureau / de la M^{on} du Roi" which has a boxed rectangular "Recommandé / d'Office" handstamp. The letter is addressed to a diplomat.

Circular 33 of 20.12.1848 (Section "Titre III lettres chargées et recommandées") refers to the **Decree of 24.8.1848** and indicated that registered letters (*recommandées*) were assimilated to insured letters (*chargées*) as far as the conditions of receipt and despatch were concerned. The letters themselves could not be posted in a letterbox but had to be handed in and paid for at the counter. Postage stamps were not to be used. This meant that the rule regarding the compulsory registration of mail had to be cancelled with the exception of the treatment given to letters or packets sent "*sous franchise*" or letters to the Head of State.

Circular 4 of 25.1.1849 included a note to postmasters in Section III warning them not to automatically consider that any letter with seals on it found in the mailbox was to be treated as **chargé d'office**. It then went on to summarise the conditions under which **chargement d'office** was necessary. This merely repeated what has already been said above.

The next reference I have are those in the 1876 and 1898 **Annuaire des Postes**. Clearly it would be useful to have the full details of the 1859 circulars which I do not have access to. They may refer more specifically to the penalties that can be awarded for fraudulent intent.

The **Annuaire des Postes 1876** provides some interesting detail which is worth quoting. In the section dealing with the closing and sealing of letters it is stated that the use of several wax seals for the purpose of sealing the letter was restricted to insured (*chargé*) letters, Letters to be sent by insured post were, apparently, regularly posted directly into the mail boxes; which was not allowed as all registered

and insured mail had to be deposited and paid for over the counter. As a result the Administration, in the interest of the public and in order to safeguard their own position, had to lay down instructions to their staff to submit letters with several seals to the formality of "*Chargement d'Office*." And, more importantly, not to deliver the letter except to the counter of the post office in the locality of the addressee. This required the addressee to present himself at the post office and to state, in front of the post office staff whether or not the letter contained valuables sent by mail in contravention of the Law of 4 June 1859.

The *Annuaire* goes on to give details of the items which are forbidden by the **Law of 4 June 1859** and **25 January 1873**.

It is forbidden:

1. To enclose in any letter which is not registered (*recommandé*) or insured (*chargé*), bank notes, bonds, dividend or interest coupons payable to bearer.
2. To enclose in letters or other containers, registered or insured, coins, gold or silver substances jewels or other precious objects.
3. To enclose in registered letters or other containers sent at the reduced-rate tariff, bank notes or securities payable to bearer.
4. To send in insured boxes French or foreign currency and to enclose letters.

The *Annuaire des Postes* of 1898 changes the emphasis in that it states what is allowed rather than what is forbidden. Insured items sent by letter could include bank notes, bonds, cheques, interest and dividend coupons payable to bearer. Small insured boxes could contain jewellery and small precious objects. The final reference that I can find is taken from *Précis de poste* by L. Naud, published in 1918 and intended for those taking exams for more senior positions in the post office. It is again worth noting that all items, registered or insured are referred to as **chargements**.

The formality of registration is applied automatically (*d'office*) to correspondence addressed to the Head of State, to valuables found in letter boxes or offices, which enclose, or appear to enclose, items of cash, jewellery, postal orders signed in blank (*bons de poste*), banknotes, inland postal payments (*mandats*) addressed to a *poste restante* box, correspondence seized by a Court and subsequently put back into the postal system, and, generally, items coming under article 364 of the **Instruction générale**.

This means that mail is marked "*chargé d'office*" by the post office on their own initiative in circumstances where irregularities occur or could be presumed to occur which might invoke their own liability. Letters so marked are not subject to any addition-

al payment. The *Arrêté* of 4 June 1859 specifically mentions securities or banknotes sent by post.

In conclusion the chargement d'office is partly a privilege and partly a necessity. By this it is meant that certain official mail, always sent by the post office and not by the public may be registered where necessary. The need to register it will be authorised by a decree or order relating to the case in point and not to the generality. I can give the following examples to illustrate this.

1. Advice of receipt as to the fate of a registered or insured item was sent at the rate of 20c later reduced to 10c during the Sage period. This was compulsorily registered or insured and the mark "R", "chargé" or "chargé d'office" is marked on it. My example of "chargé d'office" on two lines in black is dated 16 May 1885 (Figure 1).

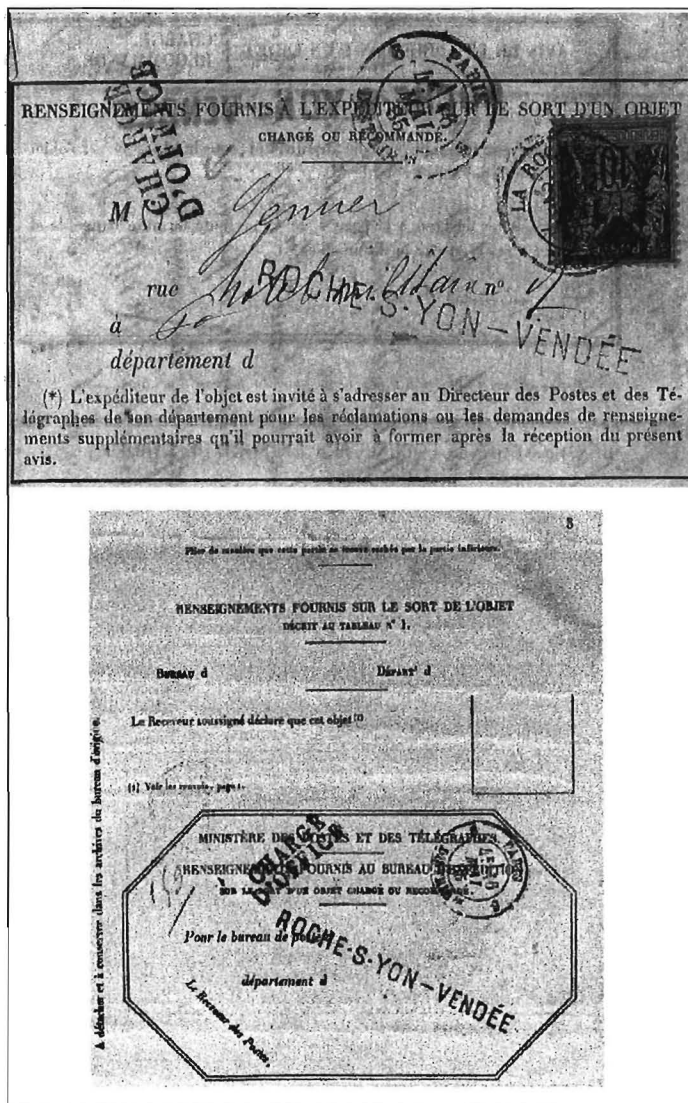


Figure 1. 15 May 1885, La Roche-sur-Yon (Vendée) to Paris. Despatch of a registered A.R. letter accompanied by form 514. This is franked 10c being the rate established on 1.5.1878. It is sent as a registered item and bears the h/s "Chargé d' Office." In other words, registered by necessity. The receipt signed by the addressee is still attached, which is unusual.

2. If the post office where a letter was posted saw that it was fraudulent they sent it to the distributing office to collect the postage due and also to obtain details on the sender with a view to prosecution. Such a letter would be sent in special envelope 1198 marked "Postes / Chargement d'Office" (Exécution de la circulaire no 135, of 10 June 1859, section VI). My envelope is dated 8/6/1882 and carries a handstruck (*chiffres creusés*) 30[c] due handstamp (Figure 2).

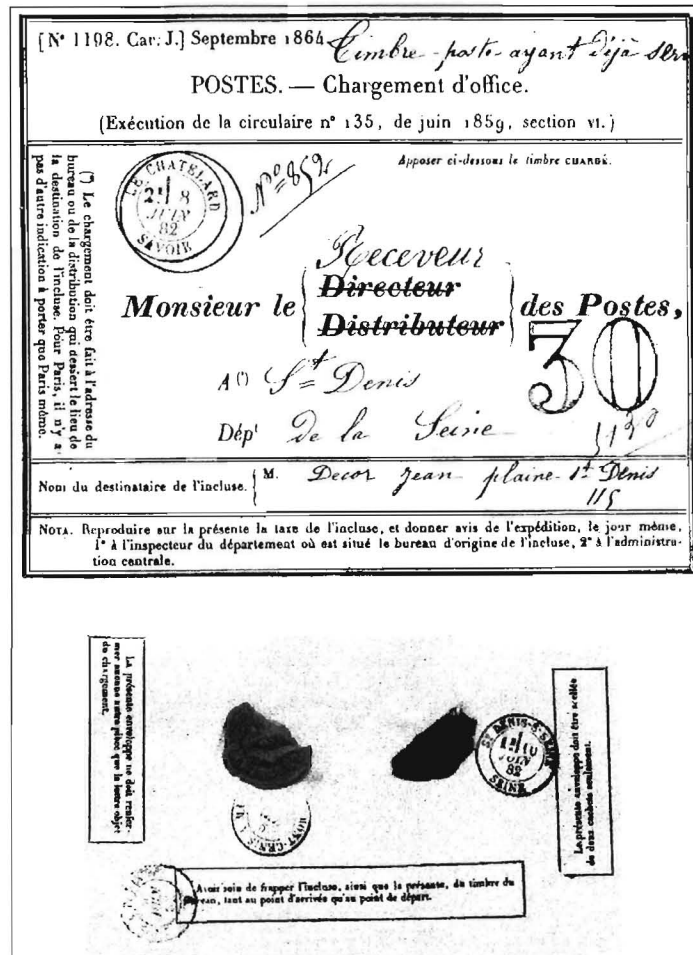


Figure 2. 8 June 1882, Le Chatelard, Savoie to St Denis, Seine. Compulsorily registered letter taxed at 30c. Encloses letter bearing stamp which had already been used to the Office in whose area the addressee resides.

In both these cases there was a need for the item to be registered and not a privilege.

3. The third example relates to a letter of 4 October 1891 from St Pierre to St Paul in Réunion (Figure 3). In this case the letter was opened by the post office and was delivered but marked "charge" with the manuscript note "chargement d'office pour valeurs prohibités en contravention de l'article 9 de la loi de 4 juin 1859, promulgué le 1 Juillet 1886. Lettre renfermant deux billets de banque de 5 francs et un bon de trésor de deux francs (signed by the postmaster)." In this case the letter was insured by the post office because it contained banknotes and a money order contrary to regulations *i.e.* not registered or insured. Note that the post office is forced to register/insure it

because otherwise it would be sending mail in contravention of the law.



Figure 3. 4 October 1891, St. Pierre to St. Paul (Réunion). Franked 15c for the single letter rate. Received St Paul 4.10. Handstamp **Chargé** and m/s **Chargé d'Office** applied to this letter containing bank notes and a money order contrary to regulations.

4. Another example of the use of the two line **Chargé / d'office** handstamp is on an 1874 registered letter from Glasgow to Paris. The stamp has been applied, surprisingly, on the back of the letter with a boxed "R" on the front. In this case the letter was taxed 6 décimes in respect of French insurance which would have been collected from the recipient. The purpose of this seems to have been to advise the receiving office that the letter is insured and should be treated as such and that the cost of that was to be claimed from the recipient. This does not appear to be the correct usage of the stamp.

This is as far as I can go with the information at my disposal. Hopefully others can add to it and also indicate any changes in approach after 1918.

Sources

Mme M Chauvet, *Introduction à l'histoire postale*; Paris, Brun & Fils, 2000.

Encyclopédie des timbres poste de France, Annexe to Volume 1, Paris, Académie de Philatélie, 1968.

Annuaire des postes. 1875-7, 1898.

L. Naud *Précis de poste*; Paris, Bureau du courrier des examens, 1918.

Thanks are extended to Peter Maybury of York and Christopher Hitchen of Croydon for assistance with the earlier period and for reading through these notes.

TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS ON ORDERING STAMPS FROM THE FRENCH OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

Ray McGarrity (FCPS #3208)

[NDLR: Ray McGarrity has been seeking information on obtaining new issues from the TOMs. Here's what he found thus far, and is most kindly sharing with our members. This is probably a "work in progress". Here are his somewhat condensed and edited words].

The best web site is that of French Polynesia: www.tahitiphilately.com. It's in English (mostly), fairly complete and easy to navigate. Available are the current year's philatelic program, including air letter sheets, and withdrawn items. They push subscriptions and have a variety of products that may appeal to many collectors. However, no information on the cost, if any, to mail orders to collectors.

Next is St. Pierre & Miquelon, with a site in French, English and Spanish(!): www.spmtimbres.com. Site's a bit crowded and not very well organized. Apparently a preference for buying by the year, via subscriptions; however, only the first three stamps of the 2006 Program were listed. It does have a lot of information on other topics, such as the islands' geography and history.

TAAF: The site (www.taaf.fr) is well-designed, enjoyable and refreshing, but (apparently) you cannot place any orders from it, and it is in French only. It includes tariffs for basic mail service, names and addresses of the postmasters at Kerguelen, Crozet, St. Paul & Amsterdam, and Terre Adélie, and how to order covers from them, as well as much else of interest to specialists; also more than "just" stamps. However, it seems possible to order TAAF stamps and envelopes [presumably PAPs] from the postal service in France. Repeating their address: Service Philatélique de La Poste, 25 rue de la Redoute, F-92266 Fontenay-aux-Roses Cedex, France. Another possible source for covers is spp@laposte.fr, but you may not be able to count on it.

New Caledonia has the worst site. Other than having nice and colorful graphics and making an apparent attempt at trying to please collectors, I was unable to complete my order or find out if postage had to be paid to ship to the U.S. Can someone among the readership help? Site is in French only.

No information as yet on Mayotte or Wallis & Futuna.

Monaco's Office des Emissions de Timbres—Poste de Monaco, 23 avenue Albert II, MC 98050 Monaco Cedex, (Europe); site is www.oetp-monaco.com. If you cannot follow it in French, just click on the British flag in upper right of screen. A good useful site with information on new and future issues. I don't collect Monaco, so didn't give it a try. Their e-mail is oetp@gouv.mc.

I also took a look at the French Agency in North America. The pickings are limited: no airmails, booklets, coils or even definitives found, and no 2006 issues yet; perhaps they too must receive via annual subscriptions.

Some words on the Service Philatélique de La Poste. It can be found eventually while tackling www.laposte.fr. More readily, through <http://actutimbree.laposte.fr> or, via Earthlink, just actutimbree.laposte.fr. Only new-issue stamps and other postal products of France can be ordered, plus some from French Andorra [what, no TAAF covers?]. Orders under 40€ require an additional fee of 4,50€; no charge over 40€; orders of 100€ or more are sent Registered at no additional charge. [See our April 2006 Announcements and News on what can or cannot be ordered via Subscription.—Editor].

That, rather unfortunately, is what I have at this time. Stay tuned! Hopefully, other members can advise our Editor as to sites that are easier to navigate and that simplify placing orders that are actually accepted. And if you try any of these sites and are successful—or fail—or if you just need some help with the French language, you may contact me at nantes@earthlink.net.

CORRECTIONS

January 2006 (N° 283): INDEX: please change Fr. West Africa to read **Fr. Equatorial Africa**, under subjects of Air Posts, French Colonies, and French West Africa;

April 2006 (N° 284): page 29: Figure 5 caption should read **earlier than**, and not "after"; id., page 38, 5th entry: the web site is www.accp-asso.com/ (with a final slash, according to Google, and I checked it out!).

AIRMAIL LETTER RATES FROM FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA TO THE UNITED STATES TO 1945

Bob Picirilli (FCPS #2381)

In Numbers 279 and 280 of this journal (January and April 2005) my previous article on rates from French Equatorial Africa (AEF) to France appeared, representing the continuing work of an informal study group researching the airmail rates in use in any French colonies prior to 1946. This article serves as a follow-up to that one, describing and illustrating what we have learned about the rates from AEF to the U.S. during that same period.

Sources of information used in this article include: (1) issues of the *Journal officiel de l'Afrique Equatoriale Française*, 1930-45, photocopied in the Library of Congress—hereafter *JOAEF*; (2) *Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1627-1969*, by J.-P. Alexandre, C. Barbey, J.-F. Brun, and G. Desamaud, ed. Dr. R. Joany (2nd edition, Brun & Fils, 1989), hereafter Alexandre; (3) editions and supplements from 1928-44 of *AVI Liste des lignes aériennes, des pays desservis et des surtaxes aériennes* (hereafter *AVI Liste*), published by the Universal Postal Union and photocopied in the UPU Library in Bern; (4) “Les surtaxes de la poste aérienne”, by Dr. Robert Joany, in *Le Monde des Philatelistes Etude N° 166*, hereafter Joany; (5) a database (including photocopies) of 4,750 French colonial airmail covers (70 from AEF to the U.S.) being maintained by our study group.

1. Rates before World War II

Until World War II, most airmail from AEF bound for the U.S. went first to France, using the same airmail rates described in the previous article, which may be reviewed for background detail. The situation before the war was described there and need not be repeated here. (For airmail not via France, see part 2, below.)

Two things were different for airmail sent to the U.S. via France. (1) The basic (“surface”) and registry rates were different, since the U.S. was not part of the French community: “foreign” (international) rather than the “domestic” basic and registry given in the previous article. (2) The sender had the option of paying another airmail surtax—to be **added** to the surtax to France—to cover airmail within the US or (beginning mid-1939) from France to the U.S. This means that different tables for basic and registry

apply, and additional tables must be provided for the added surtax that the sender could choose to pay. As always, then, the total franking on an airmail letter should include both basic and the airmail surtaxes, plus any other fees involved, registry being the most common.

Theoretically, airmail might have begun to go from AEF to the U.S. as soon as it started going to France, about 1930, as indicated in the previous article; rates for airmail within the U.S. had been announced in France as early as 1925. I will begin this article with the situation prevailing in 1934: the earliest cover from AEF-U.S. in our database is dated October 1934. The following combination table provides the rate information needed to explain correct franking of airmail letters during this period. (/5g means, for example, per 5 grams or fraction thereof.)

Table 1. Rates for Airmail Letters, AEF to U.S., 1934-40

Beginning Date	Foreign Basic		Registry	Airmail to France	Airmail in or to US
	0-20g	each 20g +			
1 Jan 1934 ⁽¹⁾	1f50	+ 90c	2f	3f/10g	2f50/10g in ⁽⁵⁾
7 Mar 1935 ⁽²⁾	•	•	•	2f/5g	•
1 Aug 1937 ⁽³⁾	1f75	+ 1f	•	•	1f50/5g in
15 Sep 1938 ⁽⁴⁾	•	•	•	3f/5g	•
1 Dec 1938	2f25	+ 1f25	2f50	•	•
13 May 1939	•	•	•	•	1f50/5g in; 10f/10g to ⁽⁶⁾
25 Sep 1939	•	•	•	•	4f/10 in; 10f/10g to ⁽⁷⁾
1 Jan 1940	2f50	+ 1f50	•	•	•

(1) The 1f50 + 90c foreign basic rate had existed since 1 Aug 1926 in France (no doubt shortly after that in AEF). Registry became 2f (from 1f50) in late 1932 or early 1933. The 3f/10g airmail surtax to France was announced in the *JOAEF* as early as 1 Feb 1930; airmail using this rate went surface to Dakar, then air to France. The 2f50/10g airmail surtax within the U.S. (from NY) began about 1 May 1931; there were rates earlier than that, but they are not pertinent to this article.

(2) The exact date for the beginning of the 2f/5g airmail rate is not certain; the *JOAEF* published it as current in 1 May 1935, but a cover as early as March appears to use this rate. When this rate began, it was intended to cover airmail that went via surface to Cotonou (Dahomey) and air from there to France via Niamey (Niger) and Algeria. Until May 1937, when rates were equalized for both routes (see Note 1), the two rates (3f/10g via Dakar and 2f/5g via Niamey) were competing options.

(3) This is the date for the change in basic **in France**, as given in Alexandre; but the *JOAEF* does not indicate when the change went into effect in AEF. The change in the airmail surtax within the U.S. took effect in late August or at least by 1 September.

(4) Effective date as given in *JOAEF*; Alexander dates it 13 Aug.

(5) In the prior article on rates from AEF to France, under "Special Circumstances," item 4, I mentioned some different rates in 1934 for mail taken across the AEF borders to be carried by Sabena or Imperial. For a cover to the U.S. using this rate (not included in the table), see the "Cover Evidence" below.

(6) If the sender chose to pay the surtax for air service from France, airmail within the U.S. was not extra.

(7) The *AVI Liste* issues for August 1939 and April 1940 state an airmail surtax from AEF to the U.S., via Marseille, as 8f/5g. This appears to include the combined surtaxes from AEF to France and France to the U.S. But I have neither cover evidence, nor publication in the *JOAEF*, nor publication in Alexandre or Joany to confirm this rate and it must remain uncertain for the time being, as must also how it relates to the 10f/10g rate listed in Alexandre and Joany. There are no covers in our database from AEF to the U.S. between August 1938 and March 1941. (This route and rate were still being listed in the *AVI Liste* issue for July 1941, though of course the route had become unrealistic in late 1940 when AEF broke with Vichy France.)

Cover Evidence, 1934-40

An important part of the study-group's research consists in building a database of airmail covers from French colonies. At this writing, there are 70 covers from AEF to U.S. in the database; 20 are in the period 1934-40, and all but two of them match the rates given in the table.

Of the two that do not match, one is 25c overpaid. The other is especially interesting, evidencing a "special circumstance" mentioned in my prior article (**Figure 1**). Dated 9 Oct 34 in Bangassou (Ubangi-Shari) and destined for Philadelphia, it was franked at 5f. This was in keeping with a special rate announced in the *JOAEF* for 1 May 1934, for mail taken across the border from Bangassou to Buta (Belgian Congo) to be sent "to Europe" via Sabena and/or Imperial. That rate was 1f75/5g. Thus 1f50 basic + double 1f75 air to Europe make a total of 5f. The cover was backstamped in Buta on 15 October.



Figure 1. 9 Oct 1934, Bangassou (Ubangi-Shari) to Philadelphia @ 5f; basic 1f50 + double 1f75/5g airmail to Europe; special rate for mail taken across the border to be flown from Buta (Belgian Congo); backstamped in Buta 15 October; surface from Europe to the U.S. (Courtesy of Alan Goude).

The owner thinks it was flown either by Imperial from Buta to London or via Sabena to Paris or Brussels and from there by Imperial to London. From there, of course, it went surface to the U.S.

As indicated in Note 2, above, the 3f/10g rate (via Dakar) and the 2f/5g rate (via Niamey-Algeria) competed between 1935 and May 1937. Of nine covers during this period in the database, all but one paid the 2f/5g rate; the other, illustrated in **Figure 2** (the earliest of the nine), is dated 23 Aug 1935 from Berberati (Fr. Congo) to Chicago and franked at 4f50: 1f50 basic + 3f/10g air—though there are no backstamps to confirm that it passed through Dakar. Note that the "Par Avion" has been "cancelled" in Marseille to indicate that it would go surface the rest of its journey. This was often, but not consistently, done.



Figure 2. 23 Aug 1935, Berberati (Fr. Congo) to Chicago @ 4f50; basic 1f50 + 3f/10g airmail to Marseille from Dakar (Senegal); surface from France to the U.S. (note the cancelled airmail indicia). (Courtesy Paul Larsen).

Figure 3 illustrates with a cover dated 23 Apr 1936, from Bangui (Ubangi-Shari) to California, franked at 6f; paying 1f50 basic + 2f/5g air to France + 2f50/10g air within the U.S. (NY to California).



Figure 3. 23 Apr 1936, Bangui (Ubangi-Shari) to Long Beach, California @ 6f; basic 1f50 + 2f/5g air to Paris + 2f50/10 air from New York to California; surface France to New York. (Courtesy Roger Gilruth).

2. Rates from 1940-45

As early as August 1938 airmail could (at least theoretically) go from AEF to the U.S. without going through France. The *AVI Liste* issue for that date indicates the route: Aeromaritime from Brazzaville to Dakar, Senegal; then Air France to Natal, Brazil; then Pan American to Miami. The rate published was 16f/5g (whether this included airmail on from Miami to U.S. destination is not clear). By the time of the October 1938 *AVI Liste* supplement that rate had changed to 23f/5g, and this continued to be listed as late as the July 1941 issue. (Rates from AEF do not appear in the *AVI Liste* after this date.) There are a few 1941 covers from AEF to the U.S. in the database, but none appear to show this rate and it was not published in the *JOAEF*; I have not listed it below and need further confirmation of it.

By late 1940 AEF (and neighboring French Cameroun) broke with Vichy France and aligned with DeGaulle's Free French government based in London. From that point on, airmail did not go from AEF to the U.S. via France, at least not until after France was liberated. We do not have certain information about the airmail surtaxes during this entire period; the *JOAEF* published rates to the U.S. just once, in its issue for 15 Mar 42, the rate being 15f/5g; this was later restated in the issue for 1 Nov 44, announced broadly as for "America, Asia, Oceania." According to the 1 Nov 44 issue, this was via BOAC and Pan Am; the 15 Mar 42 issue lists stops along the route (with airmail surtaxes to each stop): Lagos (Nigeria) 5f, Bathhurst (Gambia) 6f, Natal-Belem (Brazil) 10f25, Port of Spain (Trinidad) 9f75, San Juan (Porto Rico) 11f, and Miami 15f.

Furthermore, changes in basic and registry did not occur in AEF on the same dates as in France. The change from 2f50 to 4f, which was made in France about 1 Feb 42, did not take place in AEF until early in 1944. The following combination table will provide the information that is known to us at present, and the paragraphs to follow, describing cover evidence, will discuss some of the issues involved.

(1) The exact date is uncertain, this being the date the change in basic was published in the *JOAEF*. Cover evidence tends to indicate that this change did not go into effect this early, perhaps not until April.

(2) See discussions above, in Note 7 under Table 1 and in the first paragraph of Part 2, for further information.

(3) We do know that by mid-1945, airmail for some destination--Great Britain--for example--began once again to go from Madagascar via France, so it is not unlikely that the airmail could go from AEF to the U.S. via France at some point in 1945. But the *JOAEF* does not list such a possibility and it remains speculative.

Cover evidence, 1940-45

Obviously, we do not have enough information to cover this period entirely with confidence. What is clear, however, is that the airmail surtax to the U.S. was 15f/5g for the lengthy period from March 1942 until at least the middle of 1945.

To begin with, as noted above, there are no covers in our database, from AEF to the U.S., between August 1938 and March 1941; this apparently shows a gap in our database, however, rather than the absence of airmail from AEF to the U.S. during this period. Surely some would have gone via France in 1939 and even in early 1940. And after AEF cast its fortunes with the Free French in late 1940, it would not have been long until alternate routes to the U.S. were available.

From March 1941 to March 1942, there are eight covers, AEF-U.S., in our database. These show no discernible pattern that would enable one to determine the airmail surtax applying during the period. Furthermore, some of them went via Egypt and eastward across the Pacific (using the famous "Horseshoe Route"), while some (at least as early as December 1941) went via Lagos (Nigeria) or Leopoldville (Belgian Congo) to the U.S. westward by way of the West Indies and Miami, part of the time via Lisbon (Portugal). Given the lack of official information about rates to the U.S. in the *JOAEF* during this period, and the lack of a pattern in actual covers, we are not able to state the airmail surtaxes during this year.

Table 2. Rates for Airmail Letters, AEF to U.S., 1940-45

Beginning Date	Foreign Basic		Registry	Airmail to France	Airmail In or to US
	0-20g	each 20g +			
1 Jan 1940	2f50	+ 1f50	2f50	3f/5g	4f/10 in; 10f/10g to ⁽²⁾
late 1940	"	"	"	NA	? ⁽²⁾
15 Mar 1942	"	"	"	NA	15f/5g to
1 Jan 1944 ⁽¹⁾	4f	+ 2f40	4f	NA	"
mid 1945? ⁽³⁾	"	"	"	?	?

As noted above, by March 1942 the airmail surtax for mail from AEF to the U.S. was 15f/5g, and this rate continued until at least mid-1945. There are 40 covers in our database during this period, and more than half of them clearly show payment of the 15f rate. (Some of the others are obviously philatelic and overfranked, and some are simply unexplainable.) While basic and registry were 2f50 each (until the first quarter of 1944), a number of covers are franked at 17f50 (2f50 basic + 15f air) or 20f registered (2f50 basic + 2f50 registry + 15f air). Some are at 32f50 (2f50 basic + double 15f air) or 47f50 (2f50 basic + triple 15f air), and one (see **Figure 4**) is at 50f registered (2f50 basic + 2f50 registry + triple 15f air). After basic and registry became 4f each (probably by April 1944), several covers are at 19f (4f basic + 15f air) and one is registered at 23f (4f basic + 4f registry + 15f air). **Figure 5** shows an interesting cover franked at 96f50; this is probably 10c overfranked (for convenience): 4f + 2f40 basic (for the second weight step, 20-40g) + six times 15f (25-30g) air, which yields 96f40.



Figure 4. 2 Apr 1942, Brazzaville (Fr. Congo) to Washington, D.C. @ 50f, registered; basic 2f50 + 2f50 registry + triple 15f/5g airmail to the U.S. (backstamped in Miami). (Courtesy Ken Nilsestuen).

The last cover in our database to show the 15f rate for certain is dated in May 1945. The only cover later than that is in November 1945 at 27f registered. Taking away the 8f basic and registry from this leaves 19f, but whether this represents an increase in the airmail surtax in mid-1945 is not known. A single cover does not convincing evidence make!

Concluding Appeal

Whereas this article will enable the reader to explain the franking on a large part of the airmail covers from AEF to the U.S. prior to 1946, some gaps in information remain. Our study group continues to

work on these rates and to make progress. One of our greatest needs, at present, is to receive photocopies of many more covers, throughout the entire period before 1946, from AEF to the U.S. For that matter, we need such photocopies of covers from any and all French areas (not France itself), to anywhere in the world, during the period. These provide essential help in establishing rates in use and it is only by the generous sharing of photocopies that we have been able to progress as far as we have. Please send photocopies (front and back) to me: Bob Picirilli, 301 Greenway Ave., Nashville, TN 37205. I will respond by providing an analysis of the franking of each one, insofar as present information enables that. (I will also reimburse the cost of photocopying and postage if requested.)

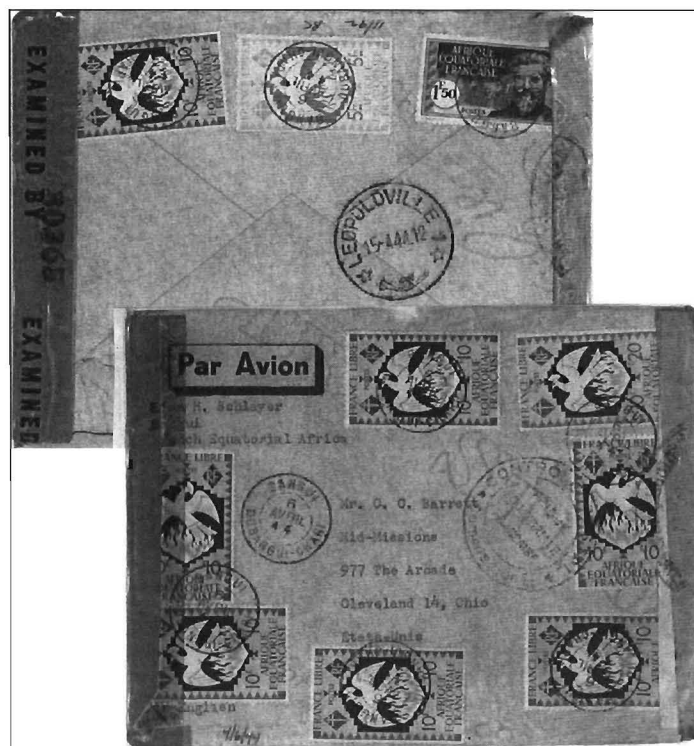


Figure 5. 6 Apr 1944, Bangui (Ubangi-Shari) to Cleveland @ 96f50; basic 4f + 2f40 (over 20g) + six times 15f/5g airmail to the U.S. Backstamped in Leopoldville, Belgian Congo and censored in Miami; (apparent 10c convenience overpayment.) (Courtesy Roger Gilruth).

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from N° 283, January 2006, p. 18)

- **871.)** According to Janie Kyrilis (*Le Rekkas* N° 50, 2006), the following table lists the only twelve issues for which illustrated first-day covers were produced in French Morocco during the period of the French Protectorate:

Yvert N°	Date	Town	Description
320/22 + A. 93	27/03/1953	Rabat	Solidarité Franco-Marocaine 1952
323	16/05/1953	Casablanca	Journée du Timbre - 1953
324	04/11/1953	Bine el Ouidane	Barrage de Bine el Ouidane
325/326	04/12/1953	Rabat	Œuvres sociales de l'Armée
A. 94/97	08/03/1954	Rabat	Solidarité Franco-Marocaine 1954
329	25/03/1954	Bine el Ouidane	Barrage de Bine el Ouidane
330	10/04/1954	Casablanca	Journée du Timbre - 1954
A. 98/99	18/10/1954	Casablanca	Œuvres sociales de la Marine
335/338	17/11/1954	Casablanca	Centenaire naissance de Lyautey
339/342	16/04/1955	Rabat	Solidarité Franco-Marocaine 1955
343	24/05/1955	Mazagan	Journée du Timbre 1955
344	11/04/1955	Casablanca	Cinquantenaire du Rotary International

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

We must apologize for the delayed appearance of the April issue. This was entirely my fault, as my wife and I were vacationing in Croatia and Slovenia, when I should have been at home, correcting page proofs and getting the corrections to our Wisconsin printer in time. But that couldn't be helped for I snapped at a good economic deal (before the "high" tourist season), and the Western Balkans are well worth a visit.

Our Journal still very much needs a volunteer to take over the vacant position of Associate Editor for "Modern Philately". Many of our members, especially our newer ones, need exposure to this far less costly (to gratis) collecting area. I can't continue to attempt doing justice to the recent/modern period for my mindset pretty much stopped around 1960 and the adoption of the late new franc. You needn't be a renowned expert on, say post-1960 (or even later if need be) philately; just have the enthusiasm and the necessary knowledge of (any or all of) late 20th Century-onward stamp production methods, postal markings, postal services, etc., and the willingness to share this knowledge. And, in these days of almost universal e-mail, by no means need you be a resident of the United States. Please contact your weary Editor if you think you'd like to give it a try.

- **872.)** In the April 2006 issue (N° 284, p. 42) we showed a forgery of the boxed ARMÉES ALLIÉES EN ORIENT / POSTE AÉRIENNE marking, which is exactly as described in the text (Mr. Sassower's second example). This time, we show here (Figure 1) a hopefully ('cuz it's mine) genuine cover, bearing the correct 1F25 civilian-mail postage, and postmarked Trésor et Postes *506*, 8 Sept. 1919 [principal Allied postal facility at Constantinople].

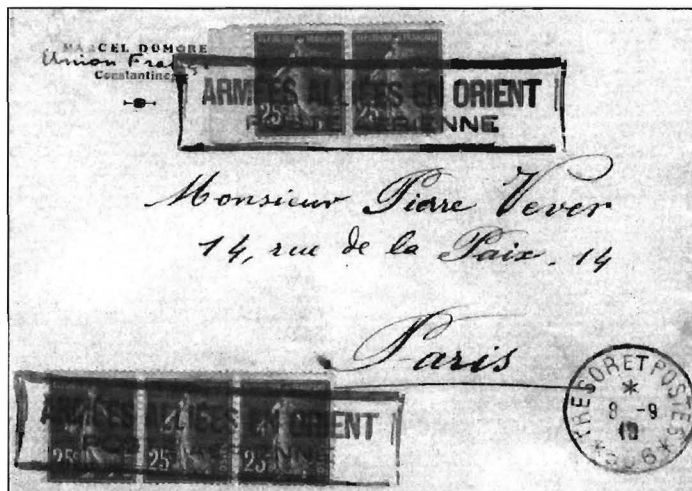


Figure 1.

Another apology, this one for not having gone to Washington 2006. My "home show", RMSS (formerly ROMPEX) closed just four days prior to Washington 2006's opening and, after working RMSS from mounting exhibits until taking them down, plus most everything in-between, I knew I had no heart for more organized philately, not even as a spectator. Yes, I'm sure I missed seeing many old and new friends, and missed out on some good stuff at the bourse tables but then, I did quite well (and overspent) for my collections during this 2005-2006 auction season. I do plan to attend the FCPS meetings at the March Party in Cleveland next year, and at the 2008 APS Stampshow in Portland, Oregon; see you at either or both venues.

WASHINGTON 2006-- Our Members' Achievements

Grand Prix d'Honneur and Large Gold medal to Ed Grabowski for "Guadeloupe Postal History"--what a well-deserved and earned honor, as well as a boost for our members and for collectors of the Colonies! Congratulations, Ed, from all of us!

--Large Gold with Felicitations and special prize (and candidacy for the Grand Prix National) to Steve Walske for his U.S. Civil War exhibit.

--Large Gold with Felicitations and special prize to Dick Winter for his US-GB steamship mail exhibit.

--Large Gold with special prize to Jeff Bohn for "Accountancy Markings associated with the 1857 Franco-British Postal Convention".

--Large Gold and special prize to George Guzzio for "Edward (All for Love)".

--Large Gold to Frederick Mayer for his Costa Rica exhibit.

--Gold medal to Peter Smith for "Egypt to 1879".

--Gold to Klerman Wanderley Lopes for "France, 1849 to 1869 issues".

--Gold to Steve Turchik for his classic Swiss.

--Gold to Al Kugel for his Bosnia-Herzegovina.

--Large Vermeil medal with Felicitations to Dave Herendeen for "The Duval Type Postage Dues Stamps in the French Community".

--Large Vermeil to Paul Larsen for his Caroline Islands.

--Large Vermeil to Lew Bussey for "French Naval Mail to America, the RF Period 1944-1945".

--Large Vermeil to Larry Gardner for "Morocco Foreign Post Offices and Agencies to 1900".

--Large Vermeil to John Allen for his Nicaragua airmail exhibit.

--Vermeil medal with special prize to Cheryl Ganz for her 1-frame U.S. 50c Zeppelin exhibit.

--Vermeil to John Bloor for his 1-frame Portuguese Africa provisional airmails.

--Vermeil to Jeff Ward for "French Guiana and Inini Commemoratives".

--Silver medal to Jay Carrigan for his exhibit of 1945 northern Bavaria.

Literature Competition

--Gold medal to Dick Winter for "Understanding Transatlantic Mail" [vol. I] (reviewed in this issue).

--Vermeil medal to Maurice Tyler (editor) for the "Journal of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society" [of GB].

--Large Silver medal to Peter Thy (editor) for "Forerunners".

--Silver medal to Ph. Damien and Klerman W. Lopes for "Caracteristiques des Correspondances du Brésil pour la France au XIX Siècle".

--Silver to Ian McMahon (editor) for the "Postal Stationery Collector".

--Silver to R. Startup and Chuck LaBlonde for their book on WWII mail between New Zealand and Switzerland.

--Silver to Chuck LaBlonde for his book on WWII mail from Switzerland.

And a tip of our caps (and berets) to the following hard workers who made this World Philatelic Exhibition a rousing success:

--John Lievsay, Commissioner General for the show;

--Steve Washburne, member of the Jury;

--Jamie Gough, Apprentice Juror;

--Lew Bussey, U.S. Commissioner;

--Gary Brown, Australia's Commissioner;

--and Klerman W. Lopes, Brazil's Commissioner.

ELECTION CERTIFIED

Recording Secretary Joel Bromberg presented the certified election results at Washington 2006. He reports that 59 eligible votes were cast. This is a great number representing nearly 15% of the membership. The final tallies, which returned all the incumbent officers and directors are:

David L. Herendeen, President (59)

Kenneth R. Nilsestuen, Vice President (58)

William W. Wallis, Treasurer (59)

Dr. Edward J.J. Grabowski, Recording Secretary (59)

Joel L. Bromberg, Corresponding Secretary (59)

Directors for the Class of 2010:

John E. Lievsay (58)

Louis K. Robbins (57)

Kay Gaetjens (58)

HELP WANTED

The FCPS needs a volunteer to help president Dave Herendeen research requirements and file the appropriate forms with the IRS to change our Society's status to 501(c)(3) so that contributions will be tax deductible. Probable volunteer will most likely be an accountant or attorney, but anyone having direct experience doing this is most welcome.

Please contact Dave Herendeen by e-mail at dherendeen@aol.com and include your telephone number. Thanks in advance for your attention and consideration.

SOME SHOW REPORTS

(Continued from N° 284, April 2006, p. 36)

- Autumn STAMPEX 2005 (London, 2005): Gold medal to non-member Joseph Hackmey for "France Ceres and Presidency"; Silver medals to Michael Bister (past president for the F&CPS[GB]) for "The sending of visiting cards in France" and to Roy Reader for "Aleksander Stocki: Enigmatic Philatelist".
- SANDICAL 2006 (San Diego, January 2006): Gold medal to Jamie Gough for "The Evolution of the Postal Service in the Era of the UPU"; Vermeil medal to Jeff Ward for "French Guiana's First Pictorials 1904-1928" plus a Silver-Bronze medal for his one-frame "Inini Complete Mint Singles".
- LINPEX 2006 (Lincoln, NE, February): Vermeil medal to Jay Carrigan for a one frame exhibit of specialized 1945 Germany.
- COLOPEX 2006 (Columbus, OH, March): Gold medals to Eliot Landau for "Classic France: Postal History of the Ceres and Napoleon Issues of 1849-1875" and for a F. D. Roosevelt exhibit.
- Nashville Stamp Show 2006 (Nashville, TN, March): Gold award to your editor for "Shipboard Postal Markings of the 20th Century French Navy"; Silver award to Bob Picirilli for "Colonial Ivory Coast to 1945: The Commemorative, Airmail and Vichy Issues". As an aside, our member and FCP contributor Bob Picirilli is the show's exhibit chairman. This is a fine regional show, using APS-accredited judges, and which would appreciate your support and your exhibits.
- Postage Stamp Mega Event (New York City, March): Single-frame Gold medal and Grand Award to Ed Grabowski for "Madagascar – Early Postal History".
- TEXPEX 2006 (Dallas, April): Reserve Grand and Gold medal to Steve Washburne for one of his Madeira exhibits; Gold medal to Dale Lilljedahl for "France's Olympic Philately of 1924" as well as a Silver medal for a Texas exhibit.
- The Plymouth Show 2006 (Plymouth, MI, April): Gold medals to Paul Larsen for "Ubangi-Shari-Chad 1900-1938" (also the APS 1900-1940), and to Roger Quinby (Finland exhibit) and Steve Washburne (Portuguese exhibit).
- WESTPEX 2006 (San Francisco, April): Gold medal and Helvetia Society Gold to Steve Turchik for his Classic Swiss exhibit; Silver medal to Bob Kinsley for his Swiss internment camps exhibit.

- Philatelic Show 2006 (Boxborough, MA, May): Vermeil medal to Ray Gaillaguet for "The Sower Issues of France on Postal Stationery".
- Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 2006 (Denver, May): Gold medal to Chuck LaBlonde for his Swiss air-mail exhibit; Vermeil medals to Bob Kinsley for "The French Conquest of Europe 1792-1814", to your Editor for "Alsace-Lorraine 1925-1948", and to Lewis Bussey for a U.S. postal card exhibit. In the single frame competition, John Bloor received a Gold medal for his exhibit of Portuguese Africa provisional airmails (also the AAMS Silver). Frederick Mayer's "Territorial Colorado Postal History" graced the Court of Honor.

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGUES

- *L'Oblitération Mécanique en France*, by Yvon Nouazé; 512 pp., 25.5 x 19.5 cm; more than 950 illustrations, most at full size; 29€ (+ 6€ postage) bank draft, from FFAP, 47 rue de Maubeuge, F-75009 Paris. (A vastly enlarged and updated edition, [through 2005] of all the canceling machines ever used in France, with their imprints).
- *Les Oblitérations de Tanger*, by Khalid Benziane and Thierry Sanchez; 68 pp., A4 format; some 160 illustrations of markings and of rare letters; estimations of values; 25€ (postpaid in France; more elsewhere; from S.P.L.M., 206 boulevard Péreire, F-75017 Paris. (Introduction; brief history of Tangiers; localization of the postal bureaux main body = postal markings of the Local and Cherifien Posts, and the British, Spanish, German and Italian posts; bibliography).
- *Catalogue Dallay – Timbres des DOM-TOM 2006-2007 and Timbres de France 2006-2007*, should be available by the time this issue appears; check with your usual sources for prices, etc.; or at the Dallay site: www.philatelix.fr.
- *Le Siege de Paris*, by Jean-Claude Lettré; 256 pp; numerous illustrations and documents; 49€ (+ postage?); inquire of author, at 20bis chemin du Pessay, F-74940 Annecy-le-Vieux, France. (Apparently more a highly readable historical perspective than a technical study).
- *Les timbres de franchise militaire aux type 'les Emblèmes'*, by Lt.-Col. Pierre-Louis Follot; 152 pp. illustrated in color; for further details, contact the author at 4 rue Croix-Fauchet, F-45000 Orléans, France. (The stamps in question are Scott M10-11, Yvert Military Franchise 11-12).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- Trolleys may be returning to Paris later this year after having had their last run in 1937. They will be running along the outer boulevards that are named for Napoleonic marshals. Wonder whether mobile mail boxes will again be affixed alongside?
- Our quarterly issues usually arrive too late to alert visitors to France of special exhibitions in the postal museums. But now we can mention with time to spare "Vlop-Art"—Russian postal art from 1950 to the present (closes 9 September 2006) and "Spirou" [the 2006 Stamp Day cartoon character] (closes 7 October). Both at the Musée de La Poste, 34 boulevard de Vaugirard, 75015, Paris.
- The Spink firm of London sold last December the Chateau Ramezay collection of classic France, owned by the city of Montreal, Canada, for £313,000. Record realizations were set, including a Boule de Moulins that went for £11,000.
- La Poste has purchased some 800 latest-model optical sorting-canceling machines from Bull and Lockheed-Martin, to be spread within France during the next several months. In a somewhat related vein, manufacturers of automatized computer-generated postage equipment presented their machines and products at the Paris-Nord exposition park last October. They included Pitney Bowes, Wincor Nexdorf, NCR, and Newvision. No French manufacturers were represented.
- The current series of French definite postage stamps, known for a while as the "Marianne des Français", is now more officially(?) called the "Marianne de Lamouche", after its designer, and which name we'll henceforth use.
- Figure 1 shows an apparently unexceptional cover from the Festung Lorient pocket held by the German army until late Spring 1945. The great



Figure 1.

majority of covers from the pocket are philatelically contrived (the population apparently had little else to do other than concoct letters while awaiting the end of the war and occupation?). However, this special-delivery (*Exprès*) letter, correctly franked at 10F, and authenticated by two German experts as rare usage, was hammered down, at a recent Heinrich Köhler sale, for 19,000€ plus the usual fees! You might want to take a closer look at some of your own covers.

- It's now possible for stamp clubs to place monthly (rather than quarterly) orders of quantities of stamps, by reservation, for new issues from La Poste. This requires filling out a special form at one's post office (in France, of course). Automatic prepayment is required.
- Official and local pre-stamped illustrated envelopes (PAPs – Prêt-à-Poster) continue to flood the market in France, Andorra, Monaco and the DOM-TOMs. They are often beautifully done, as per Figure 2, and would more than do justice to a departmental collection or a DOM-TOM collection or a Display-Class exhibit, but there are simply too many appearing to cover in our Journal. A catalogue was issued not long ago (see N° 255, January 2004, p. 19) but it already is way obsolete as to contents.

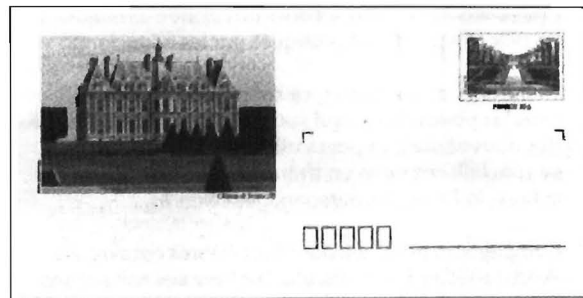


Figure 2.

- The next MARCOPHILEX (an exposition of great exhibits of postal history and marcophily) will be held 30 September-1 October 2006, in Villebon-sur-Yvette (Essones Dept., south of Paris). The Académie de Philatélie will again hold an open-to-the-public session during the show.
- Some 5,000 pieces of mail may have been damaged or destroyed when a mail truck caught on fire 6 February 2006 near the Kourou post office in French Guiana. Part of the mail was recovered and was to be sent on the addressees along with an explicatory letter. Such mail (and the accompanying letter) should become eminently collectible.
- The Association des Collectionneurs de Carnets et Publicitimbres (ACCP) voted this past February to disassociate itself from the French Federation of Philatelic Associations (FFAP). Reasons given were the "deplorable financial situation" of the FFAP (and no great desire to pay any higher membership fees) and FFAP's apparent lack of

support of stamp collectors in general, regarding modern philately, its indetermination regarding demonetization of stamps, etc.

- Some used examples of the current Marianne de Lamouche definitives (the "environmental" Marianne) have been found with visible (to the naked eye) grayish phosphor bands. This may be due to oxidation of certain types of phosphorescent ink in use.

REVIEWS

The Postal Arrangements of the Anglo-French Cameroon Expeditional Force 1914-1916, by Robert J. Maddocks; (1996); 217 high-quality pages, 5½ x 8¼, hardbound; numerous maps and illustrations of stamps, covers, documents and photographs, providing a wealth of visual information on the subject; available from the author at 1 Brick Kiln Cottages, Mount Road, Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 7PJ, England. Interested parties are advised to contact Mr. Maddocks for current price and shipping charges.

This is not a new book, having been written and published by Robert J. Maddocks in 1996. However, it is an appropriate subject for review, even now, in this Journal, and your editor asked me, as a collector of German colonial material and military postal history, if I would do so.

This book is extremely well researched, for which the author is to be commended. It references a vast quantity of orders and reports derived from authoritative military records of the period. These cover a campaign that was but a peripheral aspect of World War I, taking place in far-off West Africa and about which relatively little had previously been published. With this in mind, it provides coverage of the military activities leading to the defeat of the German colonial troops and administrative details of the postal service, as well as philatelic aspects of the campaign.

The time period covered by the author is tightly drawn and extends from events immediately preceding the capture of the main port city of Duala on September 27, 1914 by the joint Anglo-French Cameroons Expeditionary Force through the end of the joint occupation on March 31, 1916. The philatelic activity during this period includes unfranked military mail as well as the issuance of two sets of stamps, one set overprinted "C.E.F." on captured German colonial stamps (inscribed "Kamerun") on July 9, 1915 and another set overprinted "Corps Expéditionnaire/Franco-Anglaise/Cameroun" on stamps of Gabon in November 1915. Of interest is that these two sets were not issued by postal author-

ities but, rather, under the auspices of the C.E.F. Thus, catalogues might be advised to list these stamps as military issues of the joint C.E.F. rather than as specific British or French occupation issues.

Events subsequent to April 1, 1916, when the territory was divided into separate British and French occupation zones, and the issuance of two additional sets of overprinted stamps by the French in 1916-17, which are occupation issues, are beyond the scope of the book.

One interesting sidelight mentioned by the author is the fact that certain areas in the northern and eastern parts of the colony were immediately annexed to the adjacent French colonies of Gabon, Middle Congo and Ubangi-Chari rather than being included in the occupied territory. These areas had been transferred to German as "Neu Kamerun" in 1911 as a part of the settlement of rival claims related to the French Protectorate in Morocco. Thus they were considered a restoration of French administration rather than as part of the occupation.

—Alfred F. Kugel

La Poste en Moselle 1940-1945, tome 2, by Alain Demeraux and Stéphane Demeraux, (2005); vii + 193 pp., A4 format, card cover, numerous color and black-and-white illustrations; published by SPAL; 45€ (+ 5€ postage) payable to SPAL, from André Lader, 52 rue de Monswiller, F-67700 Saverne, France.

Volume 1, reviewed in N° 281 (July 2005) consists of a valuable summary of historical events of the period and of a key to the types of postal markings, followed by an extended alphabetical compendium of all known Moselle town markings of the period, of which there were many.

Volume 2, *au contraire*, consists of 14 varied and disparate, highly authoritative chapters, by a number of specialist collectors, and which I'll simply list in order: (I, 16 pp.) the Lothringen-overprinted "Hindenburg" stamps, plus essays, varieties, fakes, usages and valuations; (II, 4 pp.) the postal stationery; (III, 5 pp.) unoverprinted German stamps used in Moselle, including *sociaux-postaux* stamps and documents; (IV, 19 pp.) French, and then German postal rates, including a detailed study of packet-post rates; (V, 27 pp.) railway date stamps, with dates of use of the routes; (VI, 16 pp.) miscellaneous service markings; (VII, 14 pp.) franchise markings and usage; (VIII, 6 pp.) the Dienstpost and its markings; (IX, 4 pp.) meter imprints; (X, 11 pp.) an in-depth study of the little known "Metz 3" precancels; (XI, 62 pp.) censored mail and markings— of the French, German, other, and Liberation periods; (XII, 4 pp.) U.S. Army APOs; (XIII, 5 pp.) the Liberation issues of Metz and Forbach; and (XIV, 12 pp.) a selection of interesting and unusual covers and items provided by the various contributors to this work.

Even more than the almost sold out first volume, this one is a "must" for collectors of 1940-1945 Moselle. Collectors of the rest of Alsace-Lorraine, even of Occupied France, will find much of interest here. Being merely a dilettante at this collecting specialty, I failed to note any possible errors of commission or omission in the book. The Messrs. Demeraux and the several other SPAL-listed contributors and editors are to be congratulated for this fine, authoritative and well-illustrated work.

—S. J. Luft

Understanding Transatlantic Mail, Volume I, by Richard F. Winter. Published 2006 by the American Philatelic Society. Hardbound, 8½ by 11 inches, 482 pages, CD-ROM. ISBN-13: 9788-0-933580-24-4. Available for \$95, APS members \$76 from the American Philatelic Society.

Postal history is the study of postal rates, routes, and markings. Thus, the postal historian is interested in knowing how much it cost to mail an item, how it traveled to its destination, and what is the meaning of the various hand stamps and manuscript markings found on covers. There are few covers more challenging than 19th century mail to and from European countries, and beyond, before the 1875 General Postal Union simplified international mail rates.

Enter *Understanding Transatlantic Mails*, the first major book on this subject in many years. Dick Winter is well known to postal history collectors because he has been researching and writing articles for more than 20 years in such publications as *The Chronicle* (the journal of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society) and the *American Philatelic Congress Book*. For his efforts, Winter has received numerous prestigious awards, including the APS's John N. Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research.

In Volume I of *UTM*, Winter pulls together all of his studies of the earliest four U.S.-European mail services--British, Bremen, Prussian, and French--and analyzes in great detail hundreds of covers mailed from and to the U.S. In his forthcoming second volume, he will tell us about the Hamburg, Belgium, and other postal arrangements governing U.S.-European postal relations.

At 482 pages, this is a big, heavy book, nicely stitch bound in dark blue hard back and printed on high quality paper stock. But, please don't be put off by its size. You do not need to read it cover-to-cover. The strength of *UTM* is in the book's organization. Winter gave a lot of thought to presenting his research and it shows. Here is a basic technique to use the book:

First, you study the Table of Contents to familiarize yourself with Winter's overall plan. There are only five chapters. After the first chapter (Introduction), each mail service is covered in one chapter, divided

into *chronological* subchapters beginning with pre-postal convention (treaty) arrangements, to convention inception and subsequent changes, until 1875.

Next, you *must* study the Introduction. It's only 14 pages, including illustrations. Here, Winter provides his definitions of commonly used terms, tells you what postal markings are important (with ample tracings), gives you his system for analyzing covers, and outlines the basic characteristics of the four postal conventions covered in Volume I.

Then, look at your cover--front and back--and apply what you learned in the Introduction about identifying the applicable postal convention. Go to the Table of Contents, run your finger down the applicable postal convention until you find the time frame (date) on your cover, and you're there! Turn to that page to find a more detailed discussion of the convention and copious examples of similar covers analyzed in detail for you. This may be a bit over simplified, but it works for me.

Also, study the Index--carefully. It's different from the typical index in that it has been "customized" to fit the way Winter describes all the covers he analyzes. For example, under "postmark" there follows a nearly four page list of the verbatim wording to be found on hundreds of postmarks. So, you look at a postmark on your cover, find the wording in the index, and then go to the examples cited. In the Preface, Winter gives credit to Charles J. Peterson for devising the index. Peterson is also a familiar name among "classics" students, having been a long time editor of *The Chronicle*, among other achievements.

Perhaps worth the book's price alone, is an accompanying CD-ROM containing high resolution, color images of the covers illustrated in the book, organized by Figure number in "folders" for each chapter. A brief text description accompanies each image. It's almost like having your own world class collection of transatlantic covers.

Winter's writing style is tight and succinct. No unnecessary verbiage. It's also clear, understandable, and consistent, using the common definitions he provides in the Introduction. Footnotes--and there are hundreds--are on the same page as the referenced text. No flipping back and forth to find a citation. He uses **bold** type for postmark wording and figure (illustration) references so that scanning down a page to find something is much easier.

And there is hope in deciphering manuscript postal markings! Throughout the book and in five appendices, there are too many tracings to count of those arcane squiggles written on so many covers by European postal clerks. You won't find every manuscript marking on your covers, but it's a good start.

I do not want to oversell this book, however. You will not have everything you need to fully understand your

transatlantic covers with just this one book. You still need a good postal rate book, such as Charles J. Starnes' *United States Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations, 1847 to GPU-UPU* (Leonard H. Hartmann, 1989), and a mail ship reference, such as Walter Hubbard and Richard F. Winter's, *North Atlantic Mail Sailings, 1849-1875*, (U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, 1988). Which brings me to the Bibliography in *UTM*. It's loaded with every reference to the subject that most of us could ever ask for, all arranged neatly under broad general headings, such as "Postal Markings," and by each mail service in chapters 2 through 5.

Finally, this book is not *just* for U.S. collectors. Mail also traveled to the U.S. and specialists in the European countries covered by the postal conventions will also benefit from Winter's analysis of many covers arriving on our shores from abroad. France specialists, for example, will certainly benefit from a greater understanding of the 19th century French mail service (which takes up some 240 pages of the book) and Winter's explanation of many incoming letters from France.

This is a fine book that should be added to the personal library of every serious classics collector.

-- Stephen B. Pacetti

THE CARNET CORNER

by Bob Seeke (FCPS #1334)

Now it's time to look at the booklet cover with eight (and not seven, as mentioned in an earlier "Corner") collectible varieties: C498/Y 2806-C1/D 452, which contains two strips of 5 of the red TVP Marianne de Briat stamp with normal gum. Please bear in mind that the illustrations have been modified to make the varieties easier to see.

Figure 1 shows the area of the back cover that

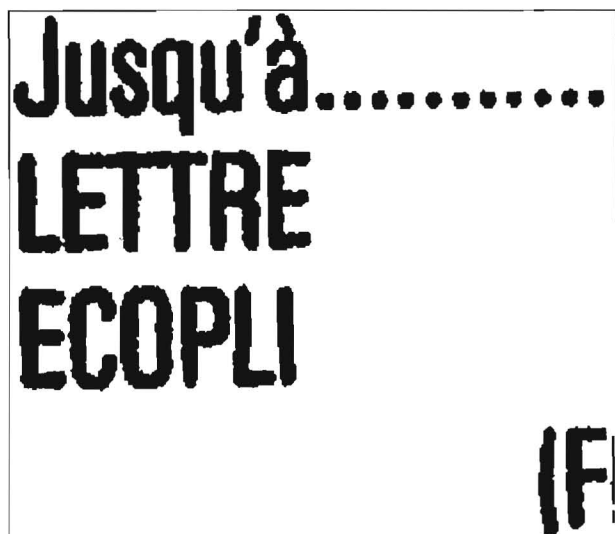


Figure 1.

we'll be examining. This figure is included so you can see what the normally printed cover should look like, in comparison with the individual varieties. Figure 2 shows the "I" and "F"



Figure 3.



Figure 5.

broken in several places (cf. the lower corner of Figure 1). Figure 3 shows the "J" of "Jusqu'à" with the top of the vertical line broken off, making it shorter than normal.

Figure 4 shows the "L" of "LET-TRE" also with the top of the vertical leg broken off, making it noticeably shorter than normal.

Figure 5 shows the "q" of "Jusqu'à" with its tail almost completely missing.



Figure 2.



Figure 4.

Now to the front cover. The right side of Figure 6 shows the word "PERMANENTE"

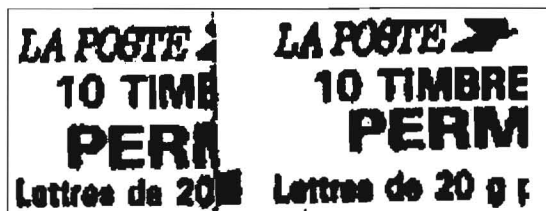


Figure 6.

printed a little too high. This cover was printed with the word "PERMANENTE" in red and the rest of the text in dark blue, so misregistrations like this are definitely possible. Figure 7 shows a spectacular vari-



Figure 7.

ety, in which part of the printing of the blue ink is wavy and "TIMBRES" slopes downward. I think this is caused by a piece of foreign matter getting behind the printed surface before the ink was applied, causing a bubble that moved when the ink was pressed onto the surface.

There are two more varieties that would not reproduce well enough to illustrate here: (1) the dark blue ink on some examples is of a blue-green shade that could be missed easily; (2) the red ink is much lighter than normal.

Each of the varieties shown here can exist by itself and generally not in combination with any of the others. I've not seen any cover with more than two of any of the varieties. Have you? I'd like to know if you have, and am interested in learning about varieties not mentioned here. Until next time, *bonne philatélie!* Bob Seeke, 866 La Costa Lane, N. Fort Myers, FL 33917, or cwseeke2@msn.com

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Dave Herendeen

Washington 2006 is now a thing of the past, and our sights may be set on the next U.S. international exhibition to be held in 2016 in New York. I feel that the show was a great success for all those who showed and attended. As you will note from the awards garnered by our members (elsewhere in this issue), we did quite well. Special kudos to our recording secretary Dr. Ed Grabowski whose Guadeloupe exhibit won the Grand Prix d'Honneur, and to Steve Walske whose Confederate Postal History exhibit was nominated for the Grand Prix National. I'm sure not too many other small societies can show such results!

The Society Table

The Society table was used to greet members and to distribute membership materials. I was thrilled to meet Leslie Marley who traveled from the U.K. to the show. She brought with her brochures and membership materials from our sister organization, the F&CPS of Great Britain. I thank their president, Peter Kelly, for sending them. Although the table was not manned at all times, there were about 50 visitors who signed the guest book, and many application materials disappeared from the table. Only time will tell if this results in new members. I also want to thank members Ed Grabowski, Jeff Bohn and Dick Stevens for helping to set up and support our table.

Not only did I meet a number of Society members at the table, but I also had a visit from the catalog distributor for Stanley Gibbons. He presented me with a copy of their new catalog to review. Since it is primarily related to the Colonies, I have volunteered to do the review for us, and, time permitting, I hope it will appear in the next *FCP*.

The Annual Meeting

The first annual meeting held under the new bylaws was attended by 24 members and other interested parties. Four attendees were from the U.K., and one was from France. All of those present introduced themselves and gave a quick description of their collecting interests in the French area. It seemed that about half collected aspects of French philately, while the other half focussed on the Colonies.

A number of items were discussed in an open forum. These included: the status of an updated index for the *FCP*; the suggestion that members

volunteer to be mentors for others interesting in exhibiting; allowing advertising in the *FCP*; a web-based *FCP* that could ultimately result in (mostly) eliminating the hard-copy journal; and the project for scanning the back issues of the *FCP*. Some of these items are not new, and some of them will be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors in the near future.

Finally, other business included the certification of the election of officers of the FCPS (see page 64).

I feel that we had a good attendance both at the Society table and at the Annual Meeting, especially for our first effort in many years. Hopefully we can be as successful next year when we meet in Cleveland at the Garfield-Perry March Party show that will be held 25 March 2007.

NEW MEMBERS

- 3357 SKINNER, WILLIAM, Louisville, KY
- 3358 PARKS, LUTHER III, North Charleston, SC
- 3359 KUGEL, ALFRED F., Hinsdale, IL
- 3360 PRITCHARD, KRISTIANE, Moon Township, PA

REINSTATEMENTS

- 3323 DE BOARD, RALPH, Edmond, OK

ADDRESS CHANGES

- 2919 BARKANIC, RICHARD J., Ellicott City, MD
- 2778 GRANTHAM, DEBORAH F., Henderson, TN
- 1420 STEELE, JOHN R., Boise, ID
- 3168 WEISS, JEFFREY K., Machias, ME

CORRECTION

- 2655 REVOLINSKI, PAUL R., Milwaukee, WI (erroneously reported as deceased, and please accept our sincere apologies)

DECEASED

- 1973 DE RIVASSON, G. (We extend our condolences to the family of this fine gentleman, a long time dealer in interesting French stamps and postal history, who did much to improve many of our collections in years past)

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from N° 284, April 2006, p. 48)

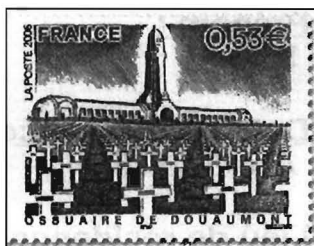
France

- > 25 February (6 March): 0,53€ homage to the miners of Courrières [1099 killed in March 1906 coal-mine disaster];



- > 4 March: 0,53€ Douaumont Cemetery and Ossuary;

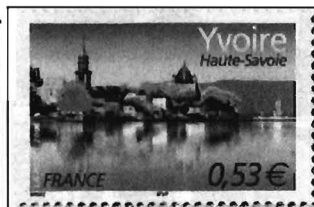
- > 25 (27) March: 5,30€ sheetlet of ten 0,53€ stamps ("Portraits of Regions #7); 0,53€ view of Yvoire (Haute-Savoie);



- > 7 (10) April: 0,53€ Dijon (Côte d'Or);

- > 8 (10) April: 0,82€ Art of Cézanne;

- > 22 (24) April: 3,96€ sheetlet of two Gardens of France stamps; Nature Series (young domestic animals): two at 0,53€ and one each at 0,55€ and 0,82€, plus 2,43€ sheetlet of same;



- > 29 April (2 May): 0,53€ Pierre Bayle (1647-1706, philosopher);

- > 30 April (2 May): 0,53€ Europa (integration theme);

- > 8 (10) May: 0,53€ memories of slavery and its abolition;

- > May(?): new blue on white booklet cover, promoting the Salon du Timbre et de l'Écrit, taking place 17-25 June;



- > 27 (29) May: 5,30€ Vacations booklet of ten self-adhesive "letter to 20 gm" stamps; 5,30€ sheetlet of ten stamps for World Cup Soccer; 0,53€ Rouffignac Grotto.



Withdrawals: 31 March: 0,53€ Le Haras du Pin, 0,53€ La Roque-Gagéac, 0,90€ Pompon's polar bear sculpture; 28 April: 0,53€ Raymond Aron, "letter to 20 gm" Stamp Day (Titeuf), 0,53€ + 0,20€ solidarity with Asia, 0,82€ J.-B. Greuze; 19 May: 1,22€ V. Baltard, 0,53€ breast cancer, 0,53€ and 0,82€ heart-shaped "Cacharel" (2005), 0,53€ and 0,82€ orchids.



Andorra

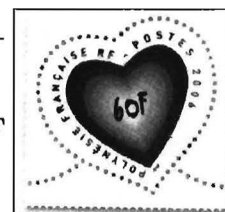
- > 6 February: Turin Winter Olympics triptych: 0,53€ + label +0,75€;
- > 6 March: 0,82€ museum of tobacco;
- > 22 March: 0,53€ Bicent. of Napoleonic decree;
- > 10 April: 0,48€ cavern of the bears.

French Austral and Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)

Withdrawals: 31 December 2005: all 0,15€ to 4,90€ stamps issued in January 2004.

French Polynesia

- > 14 February: 60F and 90F heart-shaped stamps;
- > 8 March: 60F and 90F Polynesian women;
- > 26 March: 500F Maupiti;
- > 27 May: 60F, 130F and 190F stamps in sheetlet (Washington Is. in the Marquesas), for Washington 2006;
- > 5 June: 300F scene of daily life;
- > 21 June: Polynesian birds, two at 250F each;
- > 5 July: 90F, 130F and 190F "Heiva"



Mayotte

- > 20 March: Protection of marine turtles sheetlet of three at 0,53€ each; 0,48€ Moya.



Monaco

- 12 December 2005: 0,55€ Monacophil 2005;
- 6 February 2006: 0,82€ 5th motion picture and literature forum;
- 6 March: 1,45€ 100th birth anniv. of Leopold Sedar Senghor;
- 8 March: 0,55€ 100th tennis tourney;
- 6 April: 0,64€ 150th anniv. of the philharmonic orchestra; booklet of ten permanent-value (Zone A letters to 20 gm) stamps showing arms of Grimaldi dynasty;
- 10 April: 1,60€ Cent. of Prince Albert I's arctic expeditions;
- 14 April: 0,64€ Int'l. canine expo. 2006;
- 18 April: 0,77€ flower festival; World Cup Soccer two 0,90€ se-tenant stamps;
- 5 May: 0,53€ and 0,55€ Europa (integration theme);
- 9 May: 1,75€ 30th Anniv. of RAMOGE Accord.

**New Caledonia**

- 10 March: 110F view of Nokanhoui I.;
- 23 March: Vintage automobiles, three at 110F;
- 13 April: 150F analgesic use of *Conus* venom; 75F 60th Anniv. of Caledonian Red Cross; 180F 80th Anniv. of immigration of northern France farmers;
- 17 June: Endangered birds, three at 60F, plus 330F sheetlet of same; ornamental vines, three at 110F; 110F World Cup Soccer (FIFA, Germany 2006);
- 1 July: 75F the mobile postal service; 120F wooden marionettes; 280F 20 years of Kaneka music; 85F 25 years of the Volunteer Aid to Evacuated New Caledonians.

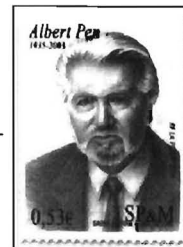


Withdrawals: 16 December 2005: 80F booklet of 16 mauve 5F Cagou birds, 210F Cagou-Panda sheetlet, 260F sea birds sheetlet, 210F Year of the Dragon sheetlet, 280F festival of the arts sheetlet, 105F head on money, 100F blue

Cagou bird (Lisiak design), 265F 1st Olympic gold medal, 210F coffee, 100F tricot rayé, 70F squash, 100F Valentine Day, 100F Governor Feillet.

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 11 February: 0,53€ sailors festival;
- 4 March: 0,53€ Albert Pen (1935-2003);
- 8 April: 0,53€ and 1,15€ whales.

**Wallis & Futuna**

- 29 March: booklet of ten 85F self-adhesive stamps showing flag of Alo kingdom; 75F "the child of the islands";
- 18 April: 190F "Haka mai" caricature; booklet of ten 65F self-adhesive stamps showing flag of Sigave kingdom;
- 31 May: 400F 50th Anniv. of birth of Jean (Soane) Michon;
- 9 June: 100F World Cup Soccer (FIFA 2006);
- 17 June: booklet of ten 55F stamps showing flag of Uvéa kingdom; 140F Salon du Timbre; 200F "Masa Vai";
- 13 July: 330F and 380F Wallis & Futuna of yester-year;
- 7 August: 30F 20 years of the Twin Otter "Ville de Paris".

MEMBERS' APPEALS

OFFER: About 120 French illustrated machine cancels (*flammes*), including a few non-illustrated slogan machine cancels, of the 1955-1965 period, mostly on common definitives, all on full fragments. All are very fine and completely legible. Some duplication of cancels. Make offer to Laurence Lambert, 405 Fox Creek Road, Rolla, MO 65401, USA. (Mb. #1394).